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Contact:

Sara Howard (314) 962-1523

Jim Hubbard (202) 225-2671

### ***USGS Will Grant SLU More Than \$120,000 to Improve Public Safety***

(WASHINGTON) -- Grants totaling \$5 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are being awarded to 13 universities nationwide, including St. Louis University, to upgrade critical earthquake monitoring networks and increase public safety. The St. Louis University Earthquake Center will receive \$121,389 for upgrades in addition to equipment that will help the center monitor activity in the New Madrid Seismic Zone and prepare the region for the possibility of a seismic event.

**"Because of St. Louis' history and our proximity to the New Madrid Seismic Zone, we must hope for the best, but prepare for the worst,"** said Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3). **"St. Louis University has been doing outstanding work to help make sure our region is prepared in the event of an earthquake. This additional funding can help save lives as well as create jobs."**

Grants were awarded by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Saint Louis University is a member of the USGS Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS), a national network of sophisticated shaking monitors placed both on the ground and in buildings in urban areas. The ANSS "strong motion" instruments give emergency response personnel real-time maps of severe ground shaking and provide engineers with information to create stronger and sounder structures for homes, bridges, buildings, and utility and communication networks.

**"I wish to thank the Congressman for his support of the ARRA which is permitting us to upgrade current earthquake monitoring to published standards,"** said Robert B. Herrmann, Otto W. Nuttli Professor of Geophysics at SLU.

Today's funding announcement is for upgrades only, but Herrmann is continuing to work with the USGS to plan for future earthquake preparedness projects in the St. Louis area.

Earlier this week, multiple components of the military and eight National Guard states came together in St. Louis to engage in unified preparations for earthquakes, the first time such coordination is taking place. Last week Congressman Carnahan met with General Stephen

Danner and Colonel David Newman from Jefferson Barracks to discuss the conference.

**"I am confident that this exercise will prove to be extremely useful in unifying our disaster response efforts,"** said Carnahan who was unable to attend while conducting business in Washington, DC, but greeted participants by video.

**"It is essential to coordinate our efforts so that if we ever need to execute these emergency response plans, we will be ready."**

SLU's Earthquake Center was one of the nation's first and remains a leader in the field, installing its first monitoring device in 1909. Today the university has high-tech earthquake monitoring devices in the central United States and in several foreign countries. It monitors the New Madrid Fault and seismic hot spots in the central United States as part of the ANSS. The University of Memphis, which, like SLU, is a member of the ANSS and monitors the New Madrid Seismic Zone, will also receive \$350,549.

*Congressman Carnahan is a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee overseeing Emergency Management and the Science and Technology Committee.*

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